

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 10297

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: PLENARY SESSION, DECEMBER 13, 1973

1. AT THE DECEMBER 13 MBFR PLENARY, HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF BELGIUM, THE SOVIET UNION AND BELGIUM MADE PRESENTATIONS. STATEMENT BY SOVIET REP KHLESTOV (TEXT SEPTTEL) REITERATED SOVIET REFUSAL TO CHANGE THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES AND CATEGORICALLY STATED THAT THE USSR WOULD NOT AND COULD NOT AGREE TO PROPOSALS WHICH CONFER UNILATERAL DISADVANTAGES. WESTERN PROPOSALS WERE CHARACTERIZED AS REQUIRING UNILATERAL SOVIET REDUCTIONS AND EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ARMS FROM REDUCTIONS, TO WHICH THE USSR WILL NOT AGREE. DISPARITIES CLAIMED BY THE WEST WERE BASED ON ARBITRASILY CHOSEN FIGURES AND ALLIED PHASE II WAS VAGUE AND AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO EVADE NATIONAL FORCE REDUCTIONS. HE SAID. SOVIET REP REPEATEDLY STRESSED CONFORMITY OF EASTERN
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APPROACH WITH AGREED PRINCIPLES OF THE JUNE 28 COMMUNIQUE, WHICH HE

SAID, IN A REFERENCE TO STABILIZING MEASURES, DID NOT AUTHORIZE CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTIVITY OF TROOPS, ONLY THEIR REDUCTION. SUCH MEASURES SHOULD, THEREFORE, NOT BE DISCUSSED IN THE FUTURE.

2. THE BELGIAN STATEMENT (ENGLISH DRAFT VERSION SENT IN VIENNA 10251) FOCUSSED ON THE DIFFERENCES IN EASTERN AND WESTERN APPROACHES, STRESSED

THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE FORCE BALANCE BY CONCENTRATING ON THE FACTORS MAKING FOR INSTABILITY, AND REITERATED THE ARGUMENT FOR ALLIED PHASE I GOALS. AT THE END, IT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WHEN THE TALKS RESUMED IN JANUARY, THERE WOULD BE A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE CONTENTS OF THE ALLIED PHASE I PROPOSALS. THE CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT , "THE NEXT SESSION HERE IS FORESEEN FOR JANUARY 15, 1974" WITH CANADIAN REP AS CHAIRMAN.MOWINCKEL

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